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FMCSA Docket No. FMCSA-2002-13295 - 50  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Dockets Management Facility, Rm PL-401  
400 Seventh Str., SW  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Subject: Federal Register Notice on Oregon Farm Truck Exemption Request

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Marie Gadotti and I farm in Columbia County Oregon. I run 4 farm-plated trucks of varying sizes to haul our products to market. I only run these trucks for this purpose. The ones for wheat harvest only run for a month. Clover seed & Grass seed only a couple of days. Hay, Cattle and Silage are hauled in the same manner, only when necessary. We must own these trucks because one cannot rely on commercial trucking companies to be available at critical times. It is imperative for us to have these trucks at our disposal. We do not run these trucks for hire, only for hauling our own products.

The Oregon Legislature has treated its farm-plated trucks the same way since 1978 with no increases in accidents. ODOT already has authority to inspect all trucks, including farm-plated trucks, for compliance with Oregon's DMV laws that cover basic parts & accessories. The farm trucks in Oregon hold an exceptional safety record, and account for less than 1% of truck accidents. The majority of truck accidents (according to ODOT) are caused by driver behavior rather than mechanical failure, currently Oregon has a more aggressive enforcement program that applies to farm truck drivers than federal requirements. Again, ODOT is saying that Farm Truck accident records are so low that they would not spend additional resources inspecting farm trucks anyway. Granting this exemption would **not have a negative impact** on truck safety in Oregon. For all these reasons NO ADDITIONAL inspection in Oregon is necessary. I am asking for you to pass the request from ODOT that allows Oregon to acquire a 2-year renewal exemption from the federal regulations that mandate certain truck parts and accessories, and the requirements for inspection, repair, and maintenance on farm trucks.

Sincerely,

*Marie Gadotti*

Marie Gadotti  
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Scappoose, OR 97056